

Appl. No. 10/050,260
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 26 January 2005

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REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application.

Applicant(s) thank(s) the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of all the priority document(s).

The Examiner is respectfully requested to state whether the drawings are acceptable.

The Office action acknowledges receipt of the terminal disclaimer, and the Examiner has withdrawn the previous rejections in view of the terminal disclaimer.

The Office action rejects claims 1-6, 13-15, 20, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and/or 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,537,300 to Kraines et al. and/or U.S. Patent No. 6,561,663 to Adachi, in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,714,983 to Lang. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. None of the cited references, either individually or in combination, teach or suggest the feature of independent claims 1 and 13 (and consequently their dependent claims as well) of cavities extending substantially less than the entire distance through the optical waveguide plate toward the light emission surface. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-6, 13-15, 20, and 21 is respectfully requested.

The Office action objects to claims 7 and 16-19 as depending from a rejected base claim, but states that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, etc. Applicant thanks for Examiner for this indication of patentable subject matter. Claims 16-19 having been rewritten in independent form, withdrawal of the objection to claim 16-19 is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 is also rewritten in independent form, but this claim has been broadened by removing the feature regarding the extent of the cavity or cavities through the waveguide plate. In a telephonic interview with the undersigned on 11 May 2005, the Examiner agreed that he had not given this feature patentable weight over the cited references in his previous decision not to reject claim 7, so the removal of this feature should not affect the patentability of claim 7.

In view of the foregoing, applicant(s) respectfully request(s) that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims.

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and find the application in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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